

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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67

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 PC-04 SY-10 RSR-01 /117 W
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P 142158 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5469

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3118

FOR SECTY'S PARTY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: CTP PLANNING GENERAL STRIKE MAY 18

1. CTP LEADER INFORMED LABATT HIS ORGANIZATION
PLANNING NATIONWIDE ONE- DAY GENERAL STRIKE COORDINATED WITH
INDEPENDENT TEACHERS' FEDERATION (SUTEP) AND HOPEFULLY
WITH BANKWORKERS FOR MAY 18. DECISION WILL BE
FINALIZED DURING MAY 16 AND CONFIRMED AT EXTRA-
ORDINARY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES EVENING MAY 16.

2. PRINCIPAL ISSUE WILL BE PROTEST AGAINST NEW
RETIREMENT LEGISTATION, PARTICULARLY ITS ABOLITION
OF RETIREMENT BASED UPON YEARS OF SERVICE BUT GROUNDS WILL
ALSO INCLUDE SPECIFIC SALARY GRIEVANCES OF TEACHERS,
POSSIBLE HOSPITAL WORKERS, MINE WORKERS, AND
READMISSION TO COUNTRY OF EXILED ULTRA- LEFTIST HERNAN
CUENTAS A.

3. CTP PLANNING MARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FOCUSSED ON
PIAZA SAN MARTIN AFTERNOON MAY 18 WITH OR WITHOUT POLICE
PERMISSION. LEADER ADMITS PERMISSION HIGHLY UNLIKELY.

4. CTP ATTEMPTING COORDINATE THIS STRIKE WITH RENEWED
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STRIKE IN SOUTHERN PERU, WHERE MOST OF STRIKERS EXCEPT RAILWAY WORKERS HAVE REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO JOBS. DISCONTENT IN SOUTH SEEMS UNDIMINISHED, HOWEVER, AND TOGUEPALA MINeworkers (WHO DID NOT JOIN RECENT GENERAL STRIKE IN SOUTH) HAVE AGAIN GIVEN STRIKE NOTICE, WITH ANOTHER STRIKE CALL POSSIBLY COMING FROM CHIMBOTE FISHERMEN AFTER MEETING THIS EVENING. THESE LABOR PROBLEMS OUTSIDE LIMA (AS WELL AS BANK WORKERS) ARE WITH CGTP UNIONS, AND ILLUSTRATE DIFFICULTY MOSCOW- COMMUNISTS ARE HAVING IN TRYING TO KEEP THEIR AFFILIATES IN LINE BEHIND GOP, DESPITE CGTP AND PCP' S REPEATED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CALLS FOR LABOR PEACE.

5. COMMENT: CTP FEELS RETIREMENT ISSUE IS APPROPRIATE PEG UPON WHICH TO HANG GENERAL STRIKE. ACTUAL BASIC PURPOSES ARE ALMOST OPENLY TO REGAIN IMAGE OF MILITANCY WITH WORKERS, EMBARRASS GOP, TO PLACE COMPETING CTRP, CGTP AND CNT IN POSITION OF GOVERNMENT STOOGES IF THEY OPPOSE STRIKE AND ULTIMATELY TO DISCREDIT WOLASCO AND OTHER RADICAL ELEMENTS OF GOP BY PROVOKING CRISIS WHICH MIGHT ENCOURAGE MODERATE ELEMENTS TO MILGOV TO SEIZE POWER. PLANS CAN STILL EASILY BE CHANGED OR POSTPONED ANY TIME PRIOR TO DELIVERY OF ANNOUNCEMENTS TO NEWSPAPERS AFTERNOON MAY 16, AND OBVIOUSLY OVERT GOP PRESSURE WILL BE APPLIED TO THAT END. STILL SEEMS UNLIKELY THIS POT WILL BOIL OVER WHILE SECSTATE HERE.
BELCHER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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